



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION William C. Harrison, Ed.D., *Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*
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June 19, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: LEA Superintendents
LEA Personnel Directors
LEA NC WISE Coordinators
Charter Schools

From: Bill Harrison

Re: **Action Required:** LEA/Charter data collection changes per new Federally mandated Race/Ethnicity reporting requirements

Based on October 2007 guidance published by the US Department of Education (USED) all states must implement new standards for race/ethnicity data collection and reporting by school year 2010-11. Meeting these new standards will require NC local education agencies (LEAs) and charter schools (Charters) to use a new set of codes. To ensure that LEAs/Charters comply within the time frame and are consistent in their implementation, DPI will provide guidance, to include the following:

1. DPI will provide by July 15, 2009 a date for both NC WISE and Staff data system conversion to the new collection types.
2. All students and staff must be given the opportunity to re-identify. Minimally, those currently identified in the following ways must re-identify: Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Multi-Racial. Please note that 'multi-racial' will no longer be a valid collection type.
3. State policy will be that students age 10 and above may self-identify.

DPI's Policy and Strategic Planning Division will manage the conversion of Statewide data collection to be consistent with the new standards.

Background

Per the attached section from the Federal Register, updated requirements for reporting student and staff race/ethnicity include the following significant changes:

1. All students and staff will be required to identify their race/ethnicity and must be given an opportunity to re-identify based on the new guidance.
2. Instead of being limited to only one selection, each student or staff person may select multiple categories of race/ethnicity (i.e., both "Black" and "White," instead of simply "Multi-racial").

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3. As noted in the table below, several categories have been added or defined differently:

<u>OLD Collection</u>	<u>NEW Collection</u>	<u>NEW Reporting</u>
Hispanic	Hispanic/Latino	Hispanic Latino
White	White	White
Black	Black	Black
American Indian	Am Indian/Alaskan	Nat Am Indian/Alaskan Nat
Asian/Pacific Isl	Asian	Asian
	Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
Multi-racial		“Two or more”

LEAs/Charters must collect and submit the data to the NCDPI at an individual level using the new collection categories. All race/ethnicity data submitted to the NCDPI must conform to the collection categories. DPI will then report to the federal government using the new reporting categories.

4. States are responsible for setting policy regarding age required for self-identification. Any student younger than the agency defined age will be identified by a parent, legal guardian, or by an observer. DPI guidance to LEAs will include recommendations for implementing observer-identification.
5. Staff who do not self-identify must be identified by an observer.

Further information from the US Department of Education can be obtained at:
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/rschstat/guid/raceethnicity/questions.html>.

Questions

We recognize these new regulations will require each LEA/charter to adjust their business processes related to student and staff accounting. Again, to assist you in making these changes, we will provide further guidance after July 1, 2009 and will be happy to answer whatever questions you might have. Please feel free to contact DPI Enterprise Data Manager, Karl Pond, at kpond@dpi.state.nc.us or (919) 807-3241.

WCH:AL:KP:sc

Attachment